Reviewer’s report

Title: Comorbidity, Limitations in Activities and Pain in patients with osteoarthritis of the hip or knee

Version: 2 Date: 10 April 2008

Reviewer: Julie Keysor

Reviewer’s report:

The authors made several revisions which improve the interpretation of the manuscript. Many of my previous comments were adequately addressed by changing the text and tables or the authors provided a reasonable argument that justifies their decision and approach. I am very pleased to see the change in terminology to functional limitation in the title and objectives.

My only minor (and optional) suggestion pertains to terminology. While I agree with the authors that terminology is confusing in the field, and I support the authors choice of terminology, it might help readers to be provided with a clear definition of how the terms are defined in this manuscript and be certain with how the terms are used in the literature they are citing. For example, the term “disability” is operationalized in many ways. Some authors use the term to describe functional limitation (e.g., walk speed or WOMAC function) and, as the authors know, to complicate things many instruments include both activity and disability (defining disability as participation, ADL and IADL types of activities). So use of terms in manuscripts may not adequately describe what the variable was really measuring, and using the same terminology because it was used in previous articles may not really reflect the factors measured. It isn’t entirely clear to me that the authors use terms in the literature as they are using terminology in the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.